



NEWS RELEASE

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City manager will host community forum to discuss capital improvement plan

Hampton City Manager Mary Bunting will host a community forum on the 2014-2018 Capital Improvement Plan on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 9-10:30 a.m. at Kecoughtan High School, 522 Woodland Road.

The Community Improvement Plan, or CIP, is a five-year schedule for buying property and equipment and paying for new construction and other major improvements to existing public facilities. Every project included in the plan must cost more than \$50,000 and have a life expectancy of at least five years.

The city manager's goal at the forum is to educate citizens on the CIP process and let them provide feedback and input into the plan's development.

The city's Neighborhood Commission will host a similar forum on Tuesday, Feb. 12 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the West Hampton Community Center, 1638 Briarfield Road.

The agenda for the forums includes a welcome and a brief overview of the CIP process by the city manager and budget director. The discussion will include an explanation of the CIP, where the money comes from, how projects in the CIP impact neighborhoods, and the overall financial outlook for the city.

As part of the forum, examples of 10 CIP "categories" will be displayed and citizens will be asked to visit as many categories as possible, sharing with facilitators their thoughts on:

- The most strategic areas or projects to focus on in the next seven years to ensure Hampton's continued success.
- Their satisfaction with the current condition of public facilities (buildings, parks, roads, etc.).

Citizens will then return to the larger group for a short report on what was said in each smaller group.

The last part of the meeting will include keypad polling on preferences regarding key strategic issues and a chance for citizens to voice any last questions or concerns.

The forums and polling are part of an overall plan to review and categorize all new funding requests and the various revenue sources available.

A CIP committee that includes the assistant city managers, director of Finance, director of Community Development and director of Public Works will then develop a proposed plan that will be presented to the public, the City Planning Commission and City Council.

Only Council has the authority to approve the plan, either as presented or with modifications. After that, the city manager incorporates the first year of the approved plan into the Manager's Recommended Budget.

For more information about the Capital Improvement Plan, community forums, and the budget process, go to <http://www.hampton.gov/budget>

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